

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Robotham et al. (U.S. 2002/0015042).

Reconsideration of the application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Robotham et al.

Robotham et al. relates to the display of visual content on a client device using rasterized representations of visual content. The visual content is rendered on a server system, transformed into bitmaps compatible with the display attributes of a client device, and transmitted for display on the client device. Some of the types of content displayed on the client device are web pages, email, electronic documents, database queries and drawings. (See paragraph [0014]).

Claim 1 recites a method for digital imaging of a printing form through application of energy, the printing form having a burn-off area detachably fixed by supporting points in the burn-off area, the supporting points being left in place on the printing form through non-imaging of image spots, the method comprising the steps of: leaving in place at least one of the supporting points in at least one reference point if a number of image spots to be imaged in a surrounding area of the reference point exceeds a limit value and a boundary area in the surrounding area around the reference point contains only image spots to be imaged; and detaching burn-off from the burn-off area from the printing form in a cleaning step.

It is respectfully submitted that neither AAPA nor Robotham et al. discloses "leaving in place at least one of the supporting points in at least one reference point if a number of image spots to be imaged in a surrounding area of the reference point exceeds a limit value and a boundary area in the surrounding area around the reference point contains only image spots to be imaged" as recited in claim 1. AAPA discloses that supporting points were simply set at uniform intervals and does not in any way disclose taking into account image spots of "a surrounding area of at least one reference point" or "a limit value," as recited in claim 1. (See present specification, paragraph [0008]). Robotham et al., at paragraph [0186], discloses that bitmap

representations of images may be compressed on a server before they are transmitted to a client. It is respectfully submitted that Robotham et al. in no way cures the deficiency of the AAPA, because image compression, which as stated at Page 6, Item 5 of the Office Action “is used to reduce the amount of data associated with a bitmap representation,” in no way relates to supporting points, which are physical pieces of a printing form, or taking into account “image spots to be imaged in a surrounding area,” as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, there is no indication in AAPA or Robotham et al. that the loss-less image compression technique discussed in Robotham et al. inherently cures the deficiencies of AAPA, as related to claim 1. (See MPEP 2112: “To establish inherency, the extrinsic evidence ‘must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is necessarily present in the thing described in the reference, and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill’”).

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that one of skill in the art would not have modified AAPA in light of Robotham et al. Robotham et al. involves rendering and transforming visual content on a server system based on a display attributes of a client device, and transmitting the transformed visual content for display on a client device. (See Robotham et al. paragraph [0002]). Optionally, the visual content can be compressed before it is sent from the server to the client to help reduce the amount of data transmitted. (See Robotham et al., paragraphs [0082], [0186]). AAPA involves the creation of supporting points by leaving an un-imaged dot in the burn-off area of a printing form, by modifying the image data to replace individual set bits (on bits, “1”) with un-set bits (off bits, “0”). (See present specification, paragraphs [0006], [0008]). One of skill in the art of printing form creation, at the time of the present invention, would not have had any reason to have modified the image data of AAPA in view of the image compression disclosed in Robotham et al. Image compression is “used to reduce the amount of data associated with a bitmap representation.” (Office Action, Page 6, Item 5). There is no indication in the AAPA of any desire to reduce the amount of image data, only to replace set bits with un-set bits. (See present specification, paragraph [0008]). It is respectfully submitted that one of skill in the art, at the time of the invention, would not have had any reason to have compressed the image data of AAPA as AAPA only teaches converting individual bits and leaving the amount of image data unchanged.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 1, and claims 2 to 10 depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and applicant respectfully requests such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,

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